

This is KADATH, a journal of postal Diplomacy, carrying 1970BL, the Murder Game, played by some of America's best-known Diplomaphiles and analyzed by some others in the same category. Subscriptions are 10/\$1. This is Pandemonium Publication #336, edited and published by Rod Walker, 5058 Hawley Blvd., San Diego CA 92116; telephone (714) 282-1921; member, NFFCB Diplomacy Division, IFW Diplomacy Society, and the Diplomacy Association.

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THIS GAME IS CHICKEN FEED ...compared with the "Grudge" Game, now starting in DIPLOGROK. This is the game which is so tough John Beshara was afraid to join it. Seven of postal Diplomacy's biggest names and nastiest backstabbers will fight it out in game 1971BC: John Smythe, Eugene Prosnitz, Charles Reinsel, Len Lakofka, Buddy Tretick, Hal Naus, and Rod Walker. In addition to articles by Prosnitz and Walker, John Boardman and Larry Peery, plus a new rating system...well, how can you go wrong? Subs are 8/\$1 to Gary Jones, 1070 Colgate, Memphis TN 38106.

1970BL -- RUSSIA, TURKEY KISS, MAKE UP, AND BURY HATCHET ...IN AUSTRIA

Fall/Winter 1902:

AUSTRIA (vonMetske): A Bud (R)-Rum. A Rum-Bud S by A Tri (A Rum /d/ /Ukr/). Owns: ~~Y~~Tri, ~~Y~~A (1). Remove A Tri (1 /a/).

ENGLAND (Cochran): F Nat-Mid S by F Eng, F Nwy-Swe, A Bel /h/ S by F Nth. Owns: Edi, Lpl, Lon, Nwy, Bel (5). No change.

FRANCE (Peery): A Pic MS A Bur, A Mar-Pie, A Bre S A Pic, F Mid S A Bre /d/ NRR /a/. Owns: Bre, Mar, Far, For, Spa (5). NBR. One short.

GERMANY (Nelson): NMR. A Mun, A Ruh, A Tyr, A Kie, F Hel /h/. Owns: Ber, Kie, Mun, Den, Hol (5). No change.

ITALY (Lakofka): F Nap-Ion, A Ven H S by A Apu. Owns: Nap, Rom, Ven, ~~Y~~A (3). No change.

RUSSIA (Welsh): A Bud MS A Vie, F Bot-Swe, A Ukr-Sev S by A Mos. Owns: Mos, StP, Sev, War, Swe, Vie, Bud (7). Build F StP(nc), A War (1 /a/).

TURKEY (Naus): F Aeg-Ion, F Ion-Tun, A Sev-Rum S by A Bul & F Bla, F Arm H, A Ser S RUSSIAN A Vie-Tri (nso). Owns: Ank, Con, Smy, Bul, Ser, Gre, Rum, Tun (8). Build F Smy.

FALL 1903 ... Rick Brooks

France wasted a unit by using F Mid to support A Bre, which didn't need supporting. Along with this is the move A Mar-Pie. With Armies Bel, Ruh, and Mun fronting on Burgundy! A Pic & A Mar S A Bur would have held unless F Eng moved to Picardy to cut support. But then F NAT couldn't have taken Mid. Germany had the option of moving A Tyr-Pie which, if successful, could have cut A Mar's support of Burgundy in the Spring [1904] or hold and guess that A Mar would try to block Piedmont. With A Pie, France is left in an unpleasant position. With an A Mar, F Mid could retreat to Portugal and both move to Spain in the Spring. [This was written before Mr. Brooks knew that France submitted no retreat order. --Ed.]

England has goofed by moving F NAT-Mid. Now France can retreat to the Irish Sea and have Liverpool for his very own unless F Mid dropped back to North Atlantic while F Eng moved to Wales. Or England could move F Mid-Spa(sc) and F Eng-Mid, then to Portugal in the Fall. France could louse this up by F Iri-Mid. If England had stayed in the North Atlantic, F Eng-Mid S by F NAT would have left F NAT to block Liverpool in case of a French retreat to the Irish Sea.

Germany could have moved worse, but not very much. If I were England, I'd think seriously of switching my alliance to France. England shouldn't have tried for Sweden. Especially since he knew that would embroil him with Russia while his alliance with Germany wasn't working.

Italy moved well with F Nap-Ion, since Turkey was almost certain to move F Ion-Tun and follow up with F Aeg-Ion. Supporting A Ven with A Apu was a waste, since it was improbable that Germany would support Austria back into Venice and Rome is open if F Tun moves to Tyrzhenian.

Has Turkey goofed at last? Damned if I know, but the moves on the Russian front are the most thought-provoking of the game. Did Turkey offer Russia an agreement in moving out of Sevastopol and supporting Russian A Vie-Tri? If so, why didn't Russia take Trieste? Turkey could have only hit Budapest with 1 unit, and Austria and Turkey could have hit with three.

Russia had several options with respect to Rum/Sev. He could have used A Bud and A Ukr S AUSTRIAN A Rum and A Mos-Sev to cut Turkish support. Turkey probably wouldn't have risked moving A Sev-Ukr to cut a possible support. However, Turkey has carefully left Austrian centers alone and Russia has 2 of them. When Russia saw that Austria was unwilling to deal, he probably should have gone after Trieste, especially since it looks like Turkey made him an offer. Russia should have moved A Vie-Tri S by A Bud and A Mos-Sev S by A Ukr, as it was unlikely that Austria would have moved A Rum-Ukr. But if Turkey had agreed to move out of Sev, why hit it with 2 units? Might as well have a unit support as sit when there is a slight chance of a Rum-Sev, blocking you out. But A Ukr-Rum, A Vie-Tri would cut any possible support for an Austrian attack on Budapest.

Turkey is the big question mark. Why did he move against Austria when he could have used Serbia to support Austrian A Rum-Bud? Being allied in another game with Conrad, I know that he doesn't write much. But a letter stating that Serbia would support A Rum-Bud in return for future help against Russia and Italy probably would have gotten results even if it didn't get an answer. Austria could then have taken Budapest--though Russian A Bud-Tri S by A Vie would have lost him Trieste--and Turkey would be more secure in the Balkans. A promise to see that Austria would have had a unit at the finish of the game would have probably been even better. Yet Turkey orders A Ser S RUSSIAN A Vie-Tri.

Turkey could have used F Arm to support A Sev and been fairly sure of holding it. I would guess that he saw the spectre of an Austro-Russian alliance. There has been much shouting and wringing of hands on how Turkey has Europe in the palm of his hand and I certainly have not been the least of the offenders. But maybe Naus hasn't seen things that way. He was far from invulnerable on the last move.

Assume that he couldn't get in touch with Conrad or that Conrad told him to go fly a kite. Despite all the reviewers hollering, an alliance between Russia, Austria, and Italy could take him if they pulled together and England, Germany, and France stayed concerned with their own problems. Russia could move A Mos-Sev S by A Ukr, A Bud S AUSTRIAN A Tri-Ser, A Vie-Gal while Austria moved A Rum-Bul. Serbia is gone for sure. Unless F Arm and F Bla S A Sev, Turkey cannot be sure that Russia won't support A Rum in. If Turkey moves right, he can take Rum to make up for Ser.

If Austria's A Rum is wiped out, he can build F Tri, and move to Albania in the Spring. All Italy has to do is hold off 2 Turkish fleets until Turkey has to pull them back.

I would have risked an Austro-Russian alliance--even though I just got reamed royally in 1970AX for that--and moved A Bul-Rum S by A Sev & F Bla, F Arm S A Sev, A Ser S AUSTRIAN A Rum-Bud. This would have held Sevastopol, taken Rumania, and not lost Serbia unless Austria moved A Rum-Ser S by A Tri and Russia left Trieste alone.

I still give Turkey the edge, but Russia has a much better position.

If he had taken Sevastopol with A Mos, he could build A Mos and hold Sevastopol for the foreseeable future. This and taking Vienna*would have given him 3 builds and instantly gained him parity with Turkey. Even assuming an Austrian retreat to Galicia, he probably would have to remove it and Russia could move A War-Gal and Turkey would be in just about the bind that he probably feared in an Austro-Russian alliance. [*--I think "Trieste" is meant here. --Ed.]

I have been quite fond of Russia-Turkey alliances since playing Russia in my first two games. I drew the first with Turkey and won the second, a Chalker nine-man [variant]. But this time, I see no gain for Turkey in one.

WINTER 1903 ... Rick Brooks

Austria might have been able to play off Russia and Turkey and hold Trieste. Instead, he retreats to Ukraine when Russia, with two centers open and two builds, is almost certain to build A War.

Russia's build of F StP(nc) makes an alliance with Turkey look even more probable. As does Turkey's build of F Smy. Of course, Turkey couldn't have done much with F Ank, as tying up 2 fleets on the Black Sea front is plenty. Building A Con could have been followed by moving A Bul-Gre, A Con-Bul before the Russians move to Ukraine and/or Galicia. This would have left Turkey with a good position to hold his own while moving on Trieste or conveying into Italy.

France has loused up royally by missing his retreat. Without his fleet to oppose the English fleets, Spain and Portugal are gone. And England may need a couple more units after scorching the bear's paw. Austria has done England a favor in retreating to Ukraine, as A Ukr makes it risky for A Mos to follow up a move of F StP(nc)-Bar or A War-Lvn for a convoy.

THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY SWALLOW (Part IV) ... Len Lakofka

The legend itself began in 1870 when Col. Ian Lumberman, late of the Confederacy, traveled to California to reside in the Hollow. Already the Hollow's history was a peculiar one. The founder, Pomposto J. VanMiller, had a queer fetish involving the donning of coquettish apparel on various weekends of the month. This fetish later developed into a way of life, and a weekly audience was announced at which Pomposto held court. His entourage was complete with King, Queen, Princes, Jester, Sorcerer, et al.

When Lumberman arrived on the scene, he took to the little hamlet like a duck to water. Fully bedecked in a tight leather ensemble, complete with spurs, gold and silver studs, and 18' Mexican whip, he became the Court favorite in record time.

Lumberman became noted for his artistry with the bullwhip--a sport much enjoyed by a large segment of the local populace. In addition to the standard strokes--or moetoos, as they were called--he introduced a "half gainer" and the "semi-moetoe" to the enraptured throngs at the Royal "coming out" party on 31 October 1874.

The Queen was so impressed that Lumberman was to be knighted that very evening. Pomposto dubbed Ian for his newest stroke--but being forgetful, he did not quite get it correct. The wizard bade him, "Arise Sir Quasi Moetoe." "Quasi" enjoyed a few more years as court favorite, but fell out of grace as the hump on his back grew larger and he took to ogling and accosting women.

Out of work and alone, he took up many jobs, chief among them being chimney sweep, bell ringer, and author. Sequestered in his tiny belfry, he wrote his autobiography, "Free Sty e Self-Abuse, and How to Develop

Maniacal, Sadistic, and Homicidal Tendencies". While his book was a best seller, Quasi-Moetee's popularity did not increase. And when accused of the rape of a young school girl on 31 October 1883, he was promptly beheaded! But he vowed to seek vengeance upon the VanMillers and those who used his head for a basketball that fateful evening!

Next: Part V: Schoolmarm Ara Bash's Headless Courtship!

BERLIN (special): The recent grinding to a halt of the German war machine has left this city abuzz with rumor. Was it in any way connected with the strange Russian winter dispositions? Was it perhaps known beforehand by the Empire's English allies (or theoretical allies)? Did Italy have anything to do with it? The most plausible theory of all revolves around the inefficiency of the imperial post...another suggests the Emperor was drunk. Dick Tyler (KLNS).

PEERIS (25 August 1903): The Premier, the Duc d'Aquitaine, today denied recent rumors that the French were about to exchange ambassadors with Federkagg. This came as Baron de Rothschild, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, denounced a raise in France's foreign aid budget which the Government has presented to Parliament for its approval. The Etats-Generaux refused to approve the increase asked for by the Government. Especially frowned upon are the new funds to finance a military alliance between France, Peerijavo, Andorra, and the Maldiva Islands. The Government announced recently that it was dispatching a military advisory group to Peerijavo and this has caused concern in some quarters. However, the Government announced this was merely to strengthen that country's defenses against German advances.

NEE-SOMORAH, FEDERKAGG (27 August 1903): The Peerijavo Bunny Club, one of the swankiest and most perverted out-houses on the Rue Sadistique in one of Federkagg's many sin cities, reported today the arrival of a whole group of customers from France. The Club's proprietor, Madame LeCra-vache, told reporters, "They chased out all of our German clientele and told us to be strong against their advances. They promised to help us," she said, with a tired smile, "and they certainly have."

GASTRITIS, FEDERKAGG (30 August 1903): The Senate, formerly in an uproar over French recognition, is now in an uproar over French non-recognition. "War, war," cried members of the Scapegoat Party, who feared that France might steal their thunder. Senator Marcus Cato Flabbens jumped up, exhibiting two dried...um...uh...or, well they were very dry, whatever they were. Anyway, holding them aloft, he shouted, "Francia delanda est!" He was barely audible above the snores. Suddenly, he jumped onto his chair and, exhibiting two erotic postcards, screamed, "Peeris delanda est". "Shocking," cried some Senators, looking at the postcards. "Yes," agreed others, "definitely unfair competition". And so, in order to protect the Federkaggian erotic postcard industry, the Senate declared war against France. The only problem now is to find an army to prosecute it with.

ST. PEERIGRAD (1 November 1903): Oh, well, easy come, easy go. If I were Walker, I'd blame this mess on Beshara. If I were Beshara, I'd blame it on Walker. If I were Tretick, I'd blame it on me, and if I were me I'd blame it on Jack Greene!

Those who are looking for top competition: follow the Winner's Game in WILEY W. HARRY (10/91). Game 1971BF features Jeff Key, Tom Eiler, Mike Goldstein, Norman Thomson, Bob Keathley, John Smythe, Gary Jones, game winners all! Another goody from Pandemonium Press!